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# End of the world, or a new era?

With just under a year to go to Dec. 21, 2012, experts say there's no reason to fear the end is nigh. The Mayan calendar doesn't mark the apocalypse, they say, but rather the end of a more-than-5,000-year era.



Doomsday is doomed.

So say experts, who want to dispel a widespread belief that the ancient Mayans predicted Dec. 21, 2012, to be the last day for all humankind.

Jaymie Matthews, an astronomer and astrophysicist at the University of B.C., said the date simply marks the end of a 5,126-year era in the "long count" Mayan calendar.

This calendar system records how many days have passed since Aug. 11, 3114 BC, the day believed to be the date of creation.

But the Mayans weren't warning future generations about an impending gloom and doom just because they didn't make any physical records of their calendar that went past the first long count, Matthews points out.

"Why would you ever make a calendar that

starts on the second long count, which won't start for a couple thousand years after you were dead and buried?" he asks, rhetorically.

Matthews says it would take a Mayan astronomer at least 10 months to carve a calendar that would cover the second long count and would absolutely be of no use to anybody because nobody was going to be alive."

Justin Jennings, lead curator of the exhibition Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World at the Royal Ontario Museum, agrees that the Mayan calendar predicts not the end of the world but a transition to a new era.

"For the Maya, the idea was a cycle of time would end in December, but the next day a new cy-



cle would begin," he says.

"(It's) like when you throw out your old calendar: it doesn't mean the world ends. You get a new one."

Matthews says that if anything terrible happens to the world, it's not going to be anything the Mayans

foresaw.

"If something happens to the world on Dec. 21, 2012, it would be something we would do ourselves."

There isn't the slightest reason to be worried, Matthews adds, as this would have been the super party of all time for the Mayans.

The source  
of the frenzy:  
The Mayan calendar

ISTOCK ILLUSTRATION

# 1

news

## Metro asked

If the world were ending, and we needed the best and brightest so humanity could survive, who would you save?

Out of the 412 panelists who answered, the three most popular picks were:

1. U.S. President Barack Obama.
2. A doctor.
3. The Dalai Lama.

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# If it's over, no need to count calories

► Dirty bananas, barbecue, all-you-can-stomach frites — if it's the End of Days, locals say they would pig out



If Doomsday predictions about the Mayan calendar are to be believed, local bomb shelters will be crowded in the waning days of 2012.

We asked five locals where they would go to survive the End of Days. Here's what they said.



**Jonathan Torrens,**  
**actor:**

"I'd buy a bunch of Gordon Korman books from Wozzles (children's bookstore), get a couple oat cakes from Steve-O-Reno's ... find myself a pretty frock at Pretty Things Boutique, and ... after going to the Clyde Street liquor store, I'd tee up a pitcher of dirty bananas and just drink myself into oblivion, with my wife and children."



**Megan Leslie, MP for  
Halifax:**

"I would hope that the world would end in the late summer, and I would be on my back deck in my yard, something delicious on the barbecue, glass of wine in hand, and clean laundry on the line. And Brothers Meats would be closed that day, so on my last day on earth my sheets wouldn't smell like pepperoni."



**Andre Livingston,  
Rainmen owner:**

"I would spend it at the IWK because I'd want to be with the kids."



**Meaghan Smith,  
singer:**

"I would go down to the The Carleton (Music Bar & Grill) and I would eat maybe three or four plates of their frites.... I hardly ever eat those. They're so darn good, but not so good for my waist line. They're the best frites I've ever had.... And I'd invite all my friends and we'd just eat frites and wait for everything to burn."



**Darrell Dexter, Nova  
Scotia Premier:**

"At the Rainmen game."

## It was the best of times — for some of us

When it comes to the best day in our lives, it's the people around us who make it special, according to Metropolitan Panel members.

More than 200 respondents credited loved ones for their most special memories.

"The day I married my best friend, my husband," one panellist said.

"The day I met my wife, by happy accident. We met at a convention where we had both planned to leave early. I asked her for coffee and she said, 'No, thanks. I've had enough coffee today.' But I persevered and asked her to go for dinner the next day."

The birth of children figured prominently.

"The two days my children were born," one said.

"The day my son was born. Nothing else comes close to that day," another added.

Some respondents were more into dogs.

"Getting my dog.... She

### Tom Cruise did it too

**Best random response to the Metropolitan Panel survey:**

► The best day is the one when I decided to go for braces at the age of 57.

loves me no matter what," one person said.

Only two of the 390 respondents mentioned cats.

Secret deeds were behind a lot of memories, too.

"My last girls' night.... We did things our husbands shouldn't know or see," one person said.

"I went to an amusement park with the person I'm secretly in love with," another said.

Some responses were just sad.

"Birth. Everything has been downhill since then."

Another said, "Don't have one. Something always mucks it up. But that's life."

• FERNANDO CARNEIRO

## Epic travel and sex with strangers ... now guilt-free!

Travel seems to be the No. 1 item on most people's bucket lists, according to a Metropolitan Panel survey.

Of the 361 respondents, 98 said they would like to go on one last epic trip before time runs out.

"See the seven or eight Wonders of the World, and go visit the country where I was born," one panellist responded.

"Spend all my savings on a super vacation," another said.

Some were very specific. One wants to ride a Harley motorcycle across the Confederation Bridge, while another wants to go to the Playboy Mansion.

Which brings us to "more sex" — another popular answer.

And in the case of one panellist, not just any sex will do. It'll have to be "kinky sexual relations." Of note, "sex with a stranger" made the list five times.

And while a lot of people want to try scuba diving and sky diving at least



### Cats and dogs

**Random bucket-list items from the Metropolitan Panel survey:**

► Eat a meaty pizza. "I'm a vegetarian. If I'm going, I might as well take a bunch of animals with me."

once, many respondents said it doesn't matter how they spend their last year on Earth as long as it's with family.

• FERNANDO CARNEIRO

► Meet an alien.

► Find my dog that was taken away from me.

► Go to an opera, in full formal, with my husband.

► Spend plenty of time with my cat.

.....  
To join the panel, visit metropolitanpanel.ca

### Reader tweets



Here's where some Metro readers said they would be:

- @BernieRegnier: Doing yoga in Point Pleasant Park... while watching ships going in&out the port. Cause then the world can end
- @HalifaxProblems: 100% you get majority of answers stating "in a pub" #halifax #halifaxprobs #noissues #mychoice
- @JenniferPierce: By the ocean in Eastern Passage, because it's so calming and if there was an apocalypse I'd need some calming down! :) In reply to metrohalifax...
- @keysto: the shipyards! All kinds of imported goods and maybe a nice ship to sail around on!
- @keysto: the shipyards! All kinds of imported goods and maybe a nice ship to sail around on!
- @thedrake1001: Bubba Rays. Where else am I going to get all the things I love: sports, booze, women and wings.
- @Ghost: with my girlfriend and family
- @DianneVandenberk The Lower Deck with my guy! :)

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# Mayan secrets revealed

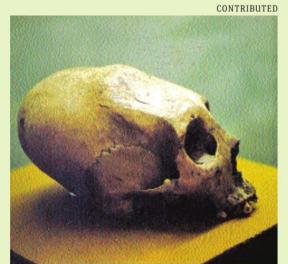
► Mayan people did not disappear ► There are 10 million Mayan people alive today ► Mayans communicated with their gods and ancestors to seek advice on decisions such as marriages, warfare, deaths and harvests



**PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS**  
@METRONEWS.CA

METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

Justin Jennings, lead curator of the exhibition Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World at the Royal Ontario Museum, tells Metro why the Maya civilization is one of the most impressive in human history and sheds light on some of the most widespread myths about the ancient Maya.



CONTRIBUTED

## BEAUTY

The ancient Mayans went to extreme lengths to transform their bodies through tattooing, face painting and body piercing. They did cranial modification where they wrapped up and tied boards to the heads of newborn babies to reshape the skull. They also filed their teeth.



CONTRIBUTED

## CHOCOLATE

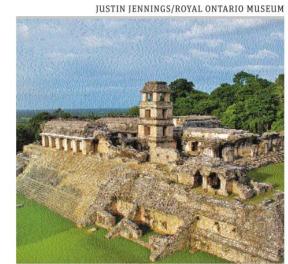
The cacao plant is from this part of the world. It was an elite drink and only few people could get the chocolate. The nobles drank a lot of it, usually a mix of chocolate, corn and water. Oftentimes, it would include chili. Instead of a sweet drink like hot chocolate, it would be bitter, spicy and foamy, like a cappuccino.



CONTRIBUTED

## BLOODLETTING

Piercing the skin and allowing the blood to flow was carried out to communicate with gods and ancestors for advice. They would prick the skin with a stingray spine, bone or rock and collect the blood in a pot with cotton cloth and burn it. A vision serpent would appear in the flames.



JUSTIN JENNINGS/ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

## MISCONCEPTIONS

Maya culture is not dead. There are 10 million Mayan people today. Many of their city-states and the idea of the sacred rulers that organized these cities died out. Maya is not an empire. It was never unified by a single governing body, but made up of numerous independent city-states with a common culture.

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# NEVER MIND THE ZOTZ, FOLKS: THIS IS NOT THE END

**PAUL SULLIVAN**  
METRO

 Another year, another year-end story. Yawn. However: If you believe hundreds of books and 1,000-plus websites and blogs this will be the last year-end ever. Nothing boring about that.

The end really is near, they say. Dec. 21, 2012, to be precise. That's the day the Mayan "long count" calendar ends, and as the calendar outlasted the civilization, there are no Mayan calendar guys around to tell us what that means.

That hasn't prevented a parade of self-declared Mayan-calendar experts from speculating that the world will end on that day, just shy of a year from now. For example, the movie 2012 featured a

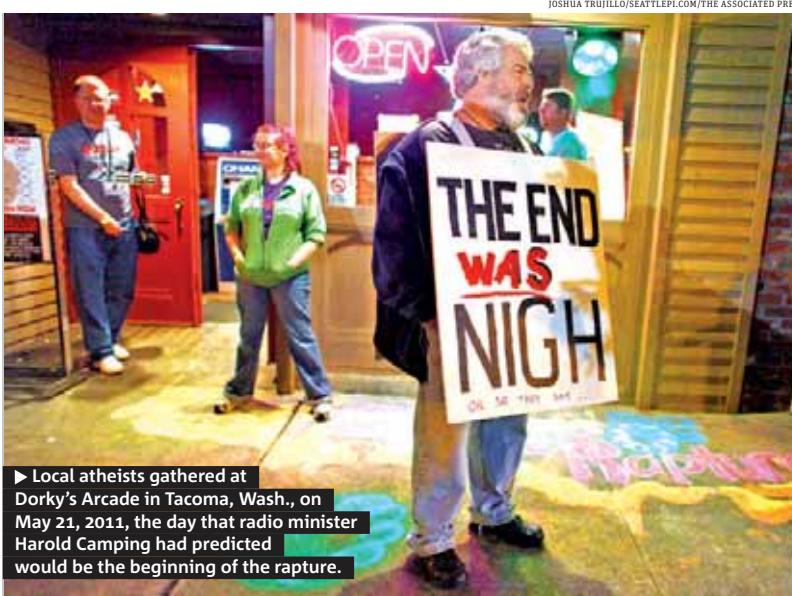
killer solar flare, a biblical flood, a really bad script and wooden performances. Scary.

That's the glass-half-empty crowd. The half-full gang, starring people like bestselling really bad writer William Gladstone, author of *The Twelve*, prefer the New Age interpretation. "Greed" and materialism will have a lesser role in this new era. There will be a greater emphasis on harmony among all living beings."

If you use that prophesy voice, it sounds more convincing.

There's more. For the first time in 26,000 years, the centre of the Milky Way (our home galaxy) and our sun will be in alignment. How cool is that? Not to mention the fact that Dec. 21 is the winter solstice and witchy stuff happens on the solstice.

Finally, that glyph of a Porky Pig-like character



► Local atheists gathered at Dorky's Arcade in Tacoma, Wash., on May 21, 2011, the day that radio minister Harold Camping had predicted would be the beginning of the rapture.

on the calendar, going what appears to be "Duh-beeya-duhbeeya-duhbeeya that's all, folks" in Mayan is somewhat troubling.

Just kidding about the pig.

After extensive research (er, Google), I can authoritatively declare it's all a bunch of "zotz,"

which is Mayan for "bats," which is as close as I can get to "crazy."

The world will not end on Dec. 21, 2012, say the usual humourless sci-

tists from NASA etc., any more than it will end on Dec. 31, 2011. Plus there's no way the Mayan astronomers could have known about that alignment of the sun and the galaxy thing. It's just a calendar, people. Get a life.

Before we go (but not for good!) let's raise a New Year's glass to Harold Camping, who, using his own zotz calendar, predicted the world would end on May 21, 2011, and, when that didn't work, went all out for Oct. 21, 2011. That didn't work either, probably because he ignored the significance of the solstice, the equinox and reality in general.

Still, you never know. But to leave you on an upbeat note, John Cusack, the star of 2012, when asked what he would be doing on Dec. 21, 2012, replied: "Skiing."

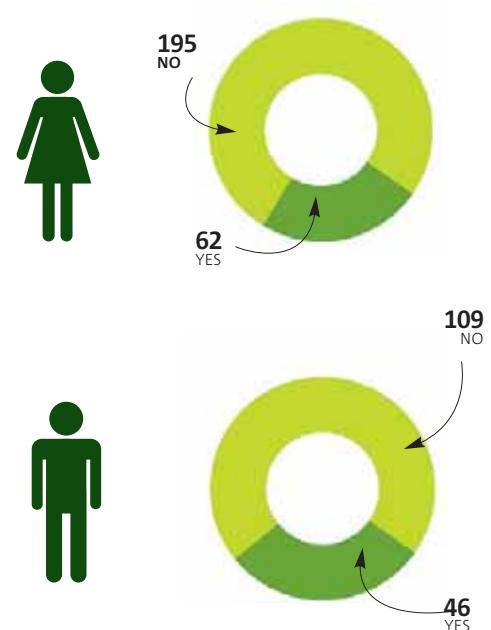
Nothing zotz about him.



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# Is it the end of the world as we know it?



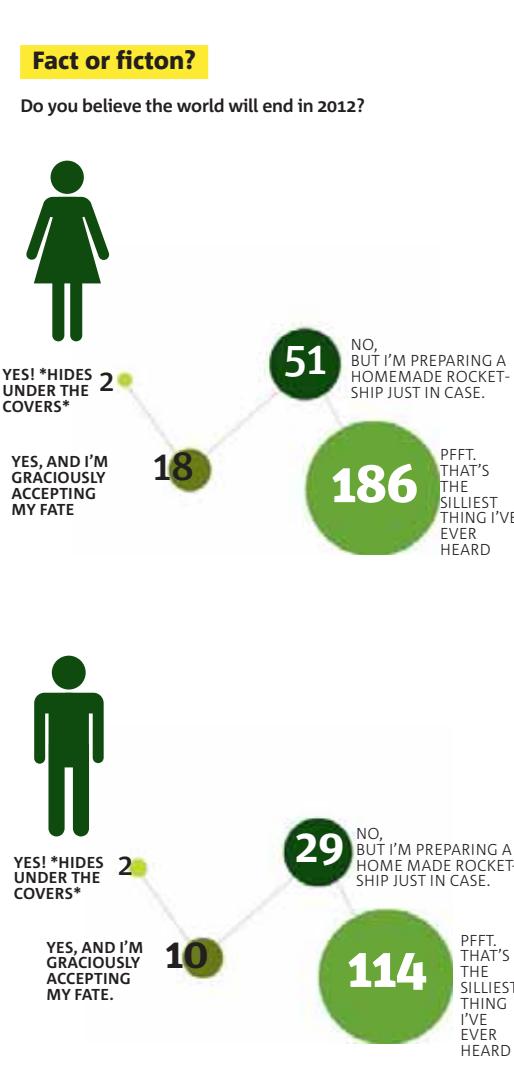
## Ready or not?

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► Metropolitan Panel polled readers to gauge their end-of-the-world preparedness ► Here's what they said



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# Mexican city starts countdown to 'doomsday'

## ► Tourism officials in Tapachula hope to cash in on end of Mayan calendar with installation of digital clock

A city in southern Mexico wants to live each moment as if it were the last.

Tourism officials in Tapachula have installed a digital clock to count down the time left before the Dec. 21, 2012, solstice, when some believe the world will end.

The clock was set to start Dec. 21, a year before the supposed apocalypse.

Chiapas state tourism regional director Manolo Alfonso Pinot said Dec. 16 that Mayan priests would perform a ceremony at the nearby archaeological site of Izapa.

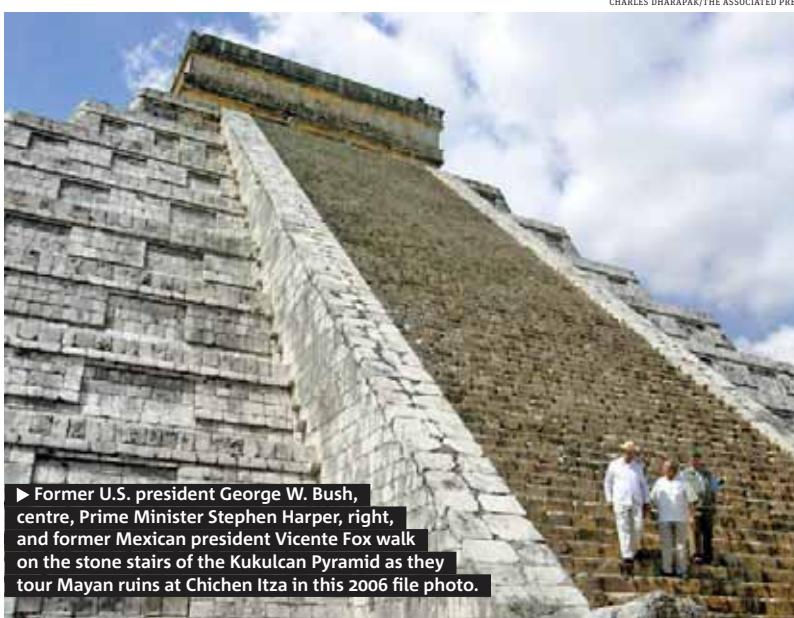
Maya experts say the doomsday fears are a misreading of Maya stone inscriptions that mention the date, saying the Mayans only considered it

the end of one calendar cycle and the beginning of another.

Pinot said he doesn't believe the world will end, but looks at it as a sort of beginning, in the business sense at least.

"A lot of people know they can fill their body with energy if they come to these exceptional sites," he said. "If people are interested, we have to take advantage of this."

Tapachula, best known as a gritty border town crossed by Central American migrants en route to the United States, is not a popular Mayan tourism destination. But nearby Izapa is a place where many stelae have been found, including the "Tree of Life" stone discovered in the 1950s and



thought to convey an ancient Mayan tale.

At Izapa, close to the Tajumulco volcano, Pinot says a Mesoamerican ball court, a carved stone and the throne of the Izapa ruler face a straight line that on Dec. 21, 2012, is expected to align with the planets.

"It is hard to say what you will be able to see that day," he said.

The doomsday theories stem from a pair of tablets that describe the return of a Mayan god at the end of a 13th period of 400 years, which falls on Dec. 21, 2012.

Experts say the date marks the end of a 5,126-year cycle that began in 3114 BC, and the start of another.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## A New World Order with a hearty side of Apple

When we have a New World Order, it looks like it'll run on Apple products.

Many of the 394 people responding to a Metropolitan Panel survey said they would include iPods, iPads and iPhones in their New World backpack.

"iPod, ebook and a per-

manent power source," one person said.

"My iPad and tons of bandwidth," said another.

One of the more imaginative respondents wants to bring "assorted pet food treats to escape and lure as necessary." The individual goes on to list rhinoceroses

as animals to escape from and cows as animals to attract.

Then there are the sentimental types. "Certain pieces of jewelry and a stuffed animal from my guy," one said.

"My stuffed Pacman from my nanny, my photo

albums..." another added. And this really smart person. "A book on how to do and make everything."

Umm, does that exist?

● FERNANDO CARNEIRO

.....  
To join the panel, visit metropolitanpanel.ca

### Survival

Cats and dogs, sometimes ahead of people, will make it to the New World, according to our Metropolitan Panel respondents.

► "I would take a photo of my dog and husband."

► "My cats, my grandma's scarf, chocolate. In this order."

► "My dog! Hopefully my family will survive."

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# Doomsday prediction flops

► We take a fond look back at five famous end-of-days prophecies



MICHAEL COLLINS

HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO CANADA IN OTTAWA

Although some people believe ancient Mayans pre-

dicted the end of the world on Dec. 21, 2012, in reality our mass extinction has been greatly exaggerated many times before. Check out our top five apocalypse predictions below.

**MAY 21, 2011 (ALSO, OCT. 21, 2011 AND SEPT. 6, 1994)**

Harold Camping of the Family Radio Ministry was the top doomsayer of 2011, a year in which he predicted the apocalypse not once

but twice.

Camping and his followers spend a reported \$100 million on a campaign of billboards, broadcast ads and RVs to publicize their May 21 cataclysm.



► A bus drives by a banner announcing the end of the world.

## Are your final wishes on this list?



There has never been a better time to pre-arrange your funeral.

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LAURA RAUCH, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Warren Jeffs appears in a courtroom in Las Vegas in Aug. 2006.

**JAN. 1, 2005**

Warren Jeffs, polygamist head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, put police

in three countries on high alert, the Vancouver Sun reported, when he advised members in Bountiful, B.C., the U.S. and Mexico to stay in their homes on New Year's Eve to await the apocalypse and ascension to heaven. The police worried about the possibility of a mass suicide by church members. Fortunately, both Jeffs' prediction and police suspicions were unfounded.



► U.S. officials at a Y2K drill.

to Richard Noone's book, 5/5/2000 Ice: The Ultimate Disaster. He predicted we'd be wiped out by an ice age on May 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Marshall Applewhite

Gate Cult.  
The members, led by Marshall Applewhite, believed that all life on Earth would soon be wiped out.

The only way to survive, they surmised, was to leave their physical bodies behind and hitch a ride on an alien spaceship they believed was travelling behind the comet. Applewhite and his followers were found lying in their bunk beds in their rented mansion.



► Pat Robertson

careful when making mathematical assumptions and calculations."

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1982**

Colourful and controversial televangelist Pat Robertson won a satirical Ig Nobel Prize for mathematics for predicting the end of days in late 1982, sparked by a Russian invasion of Israel.

The former presidential candidate was thanked by the organization for "teaching the world to be



# Fall of civilizations around the globe

► In order to remain on top, empires need effective governance, vast financial resources and cutting-edge technology ► Score a three out of three and you'll be fine, but lose one peg and your throne will teeter

## Roman Empire: 27 BC to 476 AD

If the Romans had written a This Land is My Land

song it'd go something like this: "From the Moors of Scotland out to the Tigris and Euphrates River, and from the North

Seas of Germany to the sands of the Sahara, hail Caesar." The Romans gave us sanitation and spectator sports, aqueducts, irri-

gation and fine wine. **How they collapsed:** In the end, the bread and circuses could no longer disguise the crumbling

economy and political corruption. Historians often debate the root cause, attributing the downfall to everything from decadent lifestyle choices to rampant lead poisoning.

**Lesson learned:** Whether you're an empire or a runaway model, spread yourself too thin, and you will collapse.

Cuba and North Korea. The Soviets gave us gulags, the KGB and Vladislav Tretiak — a goalie so great that even the top Canadian snipers of the day had trouble finding his five-hole.

**How they collapsed:** Because of what Sylvester Stallone said at the end of Rocky IV: "During this fight, I've seen a lot of changing.... In here, there were two guys killing each other, but I guess that's better than 20 million. I guess what I'm trying to say is that if I can change, and you can change, everybody can change!"

**Lesson learned:** Turns out Gordon Gekko was right: "Greed is good."

## Persian Empire: 550-330 BC



► The army in 300.

Spearheaded by Cyrus the Great, the multi-state Persian Empire incorporated Thrace, the lands bounded by the Tigris River and the Persian Gulf and eventually Egypt and Asia Minor. Their mammoth military taught us the importance of an enormous well-trained army. They're also responsible for breathtaking Achaemenid architecture behind such marvels as the palace of Persepolis.

**How they collapsed:** Alexander the Great's armies swept in and won decisively in the battle of Issus.

**Lesson learned:** Even the most ornate hand-woven rug can still be swept from under the biggest and baddest kingdom on the block.

● MIKE DOIC

## NOTICE

### CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S Collection & Processing Services Garbage/Organics/Recyclables

Residents of HRM are advised that municipal collection services (garbage, organics, recyclables) over the holidays – including December 23, December 26 (Boxing Day), December 30 and January 2 **will occur as regularly scheduled**. Collection services can begin as early as 7:00 am, therefore residents may place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.

Your 2012 Organics Green Cart & Garbage and Recycling Collection Schedules are included inside the **Citizen's Guide to Municipal Services**, which will be delivered to your mailbox in December.

**Otter Lake Facility Closed**  
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25  
New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1



**Otter Lake Facility Open**  
December 23 & 26 – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm  
December 24 & 31 – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
December 30 & January 2 – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

**HRM Recycling Plant Closed**  
December 24 & December 25  
December 31 & January 1



**HRM Recycling Plant Open**  
December 23 & December 26 – 7:30 am to 6:00 pm  
December 30 & January 2 – 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

**Household Hazardous Waste Depot Closed**  
December 24 & 31



**Household Hazardous Waste Depot Open**  
Saturday, January 7 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

#### What Goes Where during the Holidays?

- Garbage – broken decorations, wreaths with wire frames or plastic cord, non-paper/foil gift wrap
- Paper Recycling (grocery or clear bags) – Paper gift wrap (no ribbons or bows)
- Corrugated Cardboard – bundle for recycling
- Green Cart – Boxboard (shoe and cereal type boxes)
- Compost or mulch greenery such as boughs.

Natural Christmas trees are collected curbside on any Green Cart collection day. No plastic tree bags, and make sure to remove all decorations, tinsel, hooks and stands.

For Holiday Precycle Tips for reuse and donating old toys or clothing to charity, visit our website at [www.halifax.ca/recycle](http://www.halifax.ca/recycle) or call 490-4000.



## What Goes Where?

HALIFAX  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



► Legendary Russian goalie Vladislav Tretiak

In addition to blanketing mother Russia, the Soviet spectre shone on an array of satellite states including East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary,



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22k	\$35.56
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18k	\$29.09
14k and dental	\$22.62
10k	\$16.16
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#### Gold Coins

Gold Coins Under 24kt (Per Gram of Gold)	\$45.17/gram
Maple Leaf Coins under 1 ounce	\$50.48/gram
999 Gold Bars under 1 ounce	\$46.76/gram
Silver Maple	\$27.87/coin
Silver Bullion	\$26.42/ounce

#### Silver

Unrecognized Silver bars 1 ounce or more	\$0.74/gram
Stamped Sterling Silver	\$0.55/gram
Stamped .800 Silver	\$0.48/gram
Unstamped Solid Silver	\$0.39/gram

#### Canadian Silver Currency

Coins from 1966 or earlier	14.0 Times Face Value
Coins from 1967	11.0 Times Face Value
Coins from 1968	8.5 Times Face Value

#### American Silver Coins

Coins from 1964 or earlier	15.2 Times Face Value
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#### Platinum

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\*Canadian Dollars  
Last Update 12/20/2011

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# The new year, by the numbers

► The world we know now will be changed forever, and numerology predicts 2012 will make it a better place

## What is numerology?

Numbers have relationships with all things in nature, making them powerful symbolic expressions. Numerology is used to predict life and the circumstances that surround it. It is often used to inter-

pret a person's talents, traits and overall character throughout their destiny.

When people begin to understand the formula behind numerology, they begin to unlock the deepest secrets in their lives — and quite possibly in the

lives of others.

## Breaking down the digits

One important thing to remember when using numerology is that the numerical digits need to be broken down to a single digit in order to decipher the predictable outcome of what you are seeking.

For example, take the year 2012. Broken down, it equals  $2+0+1+2 = 5$ .

So the influence for the year 2012 will be based upon the expression of the number five.

## The power of five

Five itself has a powerful meaning — full of wild primitive adventure and unexpected exciting events.

The number-five influence enhances freewill and self-expression. This means

that during 2012, individuals will be living life their way. People who have been putting off projects, important decisions, loved ones or even a vacation will now make the time to accomplish the things that are overdue.

While seeking their highest goals and chasing their dearest dreams, as they bounce from one unique experience to the next, during 2012 most people will freely share their emotions and thoughts with the world. With this number-five influence, many people in the world will desire to use social outlets, ultimately as a tool to connect with the world.

## Money-wise

Folks will take finances to a more serious level, and



although they may not save as much money as they would like to, eventually their spending habits will change, and wiser choices will be made regarding their budget. People will start to get stingy with their cash, spending on only the best deal ... but the competition will be good for business and the consumer will benefit.

## Lessons to be learned

Yes, the year 2012 will be somewhat unpredictable with all the frequent changes that five imposes, but 2012 will be a memorable year, packed with valuable lessons which people will learn to live by.

The world is not ending, but it is becoming a better place.

● CERISE FAIRFAX (NUMEROLOGIST)

## 2012: 5 positives

- 1** Taking the initiative to create friendships
- 2** Love connections
- 3** Reconciliation
- 4** Mental/emotional balance
- 5** Expression of self

## 2012: 5 negatives

- 1** Challenges
- 2** Overreacting
- 3** Heightened sensitivity
- 4** Self-centredness
- 5** Controlling

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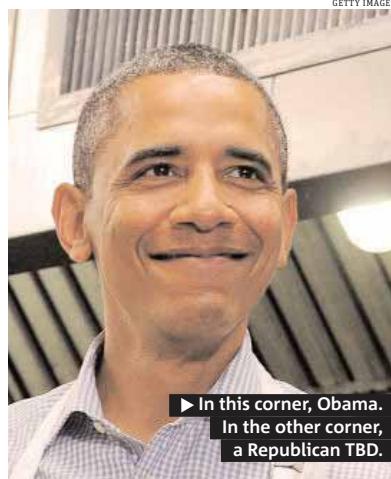
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# WHAT 2012 WILL BRING

► Presidential elections in Russia, France and the U.S. ► London will stage the Summer Olympic Games ► World is waiting for doomsday ► Metro rounds up the biggest events that will shape the world in an action-filled 2012



**1 Chinese New Year**  
Puff, the Magic Dragon  
.... On Jan. 23 it's Chinese New Year, and this year belongs to the dragon. Fifteen days of celebrations will follow.

**2 Jubilee of Elizabeth II**  
When Princess Elizabeth became Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Feb. 6, 1952, Britain was an empire that ruled large parts of the world. Sixty years later, Britain is no longer an empire; in fact, it's just a mid-

size member of the EU. The Queen, however, remains very popular. The country celebrates her 60 years on the throne with a series of special events any Royal fan will cherish.

**3 Putin set for re-election**  
On March 4, Vladimir Putin looks set to be elected the next president of Russia. Yes, it's a democratic election, but Putin is widely considered a shoo-in. Dmitry Medvedev, Putin's protege who has served as president for the past four years, is billed to become prime minister.

**4 Titanic's anniversary**  
Was it too big to fail? On April 10, 1912,

RMS Titanic set out on its maiden voyage, from Southampton to New York. But the luxury liner, known as the world's safest ship, sank when it hit an iceberg. Some 1,500 passengers were killed. On April 14, the 100th anniversary of the catastrophe, cruise ships will take visitors to the site where the Titanic sank.

**5 Anti-Sarkozy**  
Will the euro sink? Nicolas Sarkozy? The French president faces voters at the polls on April 22. With disgraced IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn out of the race, Sarkozy's main challenger is François

Hollande, a man so bland that he's turned it into his trademark. But with the euro in tatters, Hollande stands a good chance of winning.

**6 Europe's feast of soccer**  
On June 8, Europe's 16 leading soccer nations descend on Poland and Ukraine for Euro 2012. With a little bit of luck, the host countries will even be ready for the famous event. Delays have hampered the preparations, with UEFA chief Michel Platini threatening to move the championship to Germany.

**7 Summer Olympics** London is definitely ready for the Summer

Olympics, which begins in London on July 27. London, which last hosted the games as a war-torn city in 1948, has been credited with impeccable planning and finishing construction of new arenas ahead of schedule.

**8 Who will face Obama?**  
It won't be Herman Cain, this year's surprise frontrunner for Republican candidate in the U.S. presidential election, has dropped out of the race. At their convention, which begins Sept. 1, Republicans will likely choose either Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich as their candidate to take on Barack Obama. The De-

mocrats will nominate Obama as their candidate two days later.

**9 U.S. elections**  
More drama for Obama. Barack Obama faces a surprisingly tough re-election on Nov. 6. Many Americans are disappointed with Obama, who won the goodwill of the whole nation — and much of the world — in the election four years ago.

**10 The end of the world**  
Arrivederci, folks. According to one interpretation of the Mayan calendar, the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012.

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## 11 people to watch in 2012

**Alexei Navalny**

This 35-year-old Russian lawyer-whistleblower buys shares in government-owned companies, uncovers corruption and blogs about it. He may pose big problems for Putin's presidential bid.

**Razan Zaitouneh**

Look out of Zaitounah in Syria's Arab Spring. The 34-year-old lawyer founded Syria's Human Rights Association and remains a key opposition leaders.

**Yoani Sánchez**

The Castro brothers are still in charge, but the founder of the Generation Y blog poses a serious threat to their decades-long rule.

**François Hollande**

Will 'Mr Boring' be France's new President? Given Nicolas Sarkozy's poor popularity rating, the self-styled plain guy has a good chance to win.

**Newt Gingrich**

When Metro interviewed the former House speaker last year, he still hadn't decided whether to run for President. Now he's the Republican party's front-runner.

**Leopoldo López**

He's young, popular and handsome. No wonder Hugo Chavez has banned the former mayor of Chacao from running for office. López still intends to face Chavez in elections in 2012.

**Kim Jong Un**

No one is even sure about his exact age but one thing seems certain: Kim will take over as leader of North Korea now that his father, Kim Jong-il, has died.

**Camila Vallejo**

These days 'Comandante Camila' is the world's most inspirational rebel leader. The attractive 23-year-old Chilean leads students in a nation-wide revolt against rising student fees.

**Boris Johnson**

2012 will be Boris's year as his city hosts the Summer Olympics. Londoners will elect a new Mayor in May, and Johnson looks set to win. But his eyes are on a higher goal: Prime Minister.

**Ai Weiwei**

The Chinese artist has been a thorn for the Communist government and has captured the world's attention, as thousands have helped pay a tax penalty fee laid down by the state.

**The Klout Guys**

Klout, a two-year-old Silicon Valley company, measures people's online influence ('clout'). As Facebook is losing its Kool Faktor, Klout may be the next e-sensation.

# Hey, it could happen...

► There's reason to fear new war in the Middle East and euro collapse ► Metro lists 3 events we may see in 2012

## 1

**Iran attacked**

"The United States has launched a missile attack on Iran's uranium centrifuges near the city of Natanz. The Americans, backed by the United Kingdom, France and Israel, acted after IAEA inspectors were repeatedly blocked from entering the Natanz facility."

The attack hasn't happened, but something similar may very well occur in 2012. But while it would set Iran's nuclear ambitions back, it may also trigger an armed conflict. Since Iran is far from well-liked among its neighbours, the conflict would be unlikely to spread to other countries. But the United States could ill afford another war.



gatory of financial collapse and bureaucracy."

The collapse of the euro is a real possibility next year, and it's exactly what Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, even David Cameron, want to avoid. Even if their citizens nostalgically remember the D-mark and the Franc as stable currencies and don't see the point of sacrificing to bail Greece out, the eurozone leaders know that the single currency is beyond the point of no return. If the euro fails, the world may face a new Great Depression.

## 3

**FIFA accepts goal-line technology in football**

After a hundred years of pretending that it doesn't exist, football's governing body may vote to use goal-line technology to decide on the most crucial moments in the game. The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is expected to make the decision in March.

● ELISABETH BRAW, MWN

## 2

**Euro collapses**

Good news, all of you who've kept D-mark, Francs and Lire in your drawers: You'll be able to use them again. The bad news: Your countries, the 17 nations in the eurozone, will plunge into an unprecedented pur-

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# If only there were an undo button on life

It's so hard to get it right when it comes to love and money.

The two were at the top of people's do-over lists when Metro asked members of the Metropolitan Panel to assume that the world is ending and to choose one thing they'd like

another crack at.

Apparently, one panelist would like to "crack" her husband.

"I would never marry the a\*\*hole I've been married to for the past 22 years! God, how I hate his guts."

Aside from choice of partner, people also regret-

ted the timing of their marriage.

"Not marry so young and finish college," one panelist wrote.

"I wouldn't have gotten married at 18, would have finished school and been a paralegal," said another.

Yet, many of the 382 re-

spondents said they wish they hadn't waited so long.

"Realize my husband was the one for me many years sooner," one anonymous participant said.

Money was the other popular do-over choice.

"Spend less and save more, at least 10 per cent of

every paycheque. No excuses," one person said.

For every saver, there was a spender.

"Spend every penny I have and have a blast!"

Either way, the smartest answer was probably this one: "Buy shares in Apple and Google."

Speaking of smarts, a number of respondents said they'd like the chance to go back to school.

Some said they like their career choice, but wish that it paid more. Others said they hate what they do, but the money is so nice.

And while a number of people said they would have had more sex, 33 said thanks, but no thanks to change. They're happy with the choices they've made.

"All the tough stuff has

## Survey do-overs

- I never would have plucked my eyebrows to the point of extinction.
- (I would) come back as Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- Marry Tom Brady.
- I wouldn't have kissed that guy Halloween 2010. It nearly ruined my relationship and because of it my husband is no longer friends with someone he was close to.

made me into the person I am today," one respondent said.

"Every poor choice and failure is an opportunity to learn and grow," another added.

• FERNANDO CARNEIRO

## What would you do with one year to live?

► Metro asked its newsdesk editors what they would be up to

METRO CANADA, AMBER SHORTT



- Get caught kissing during a Vancouver riot. Come on Canucks!
- Build a bunker for three of my favourite Canadians: my sister, my niece and Ryan Gosling.

METRO COLOMBIA, GABRIEL MURILLO



- Dare I say it, I'd quit my job! With one year to go, it'll be high time to spend every moment with family and friends.
- I think travelling is a good idea.

METRO SWEDEN, JESSICA CARLESON



- Take my mom on an African safari. It is her dream and it is my wholehearted ambition to spoil my parents. Dad should come as well.

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON, ANTHONY JOHNSTON



- Coerce world leaders to make George Bush President of Earth: 12 months of hilarity!
- Heli-ski down the Kamchatka volcanos!

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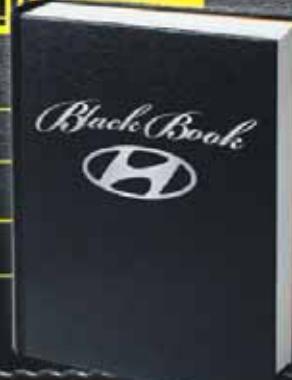
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### Armageddon at the box office



Filmmakers seem just as obsessed with the end of the world as the ancient Mayans were. It almost seems Hollywood could make post-apocalyptic movies until the end of the world comes for real. This week the Reel Guys have a look at our world ceasing to exist.



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### Reel Guys

**RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN**

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## End of times in film

► Hollywood loves a good apocalypse  
► Here are some watchable worst-case scenarios

**Richard:** Mark, there are so many end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it movies out there it's hard to narrow it down, but I'll start our look at the end with *Last Night*. It's a dramedy about how people react in the hours before the destruction of the planet. My favourite part has David Cronenberg, in a rare appearance in front of the camera, as a utility company boss spending his final moments calling all his clients to offer thanks for their business.

**Mark:** Oh, Richard, I hated that movie. I found it twee and precious. Maybe I'm just an old-fashioned guy when it comes to the end of the world, but I want to see landmarks crumbling, a body count in the billions, explosions, tidal waves, and most importantly, a dad separated from his estranged wife and child who

saves them, and his relationship. So, I liked *2012*, even though I suspect the Mayans were numerically challenged. But I think it's important to differentiate between a natural apocalypse and one caused by alien invasion. Which do you — ahem — prefer?

**RC:** I'm more of a good old-fashioned apocalyptic guy, although I'm also partial to super-plagues as well. At least on film. *Omega Man*, *28 Days Later* and *12 Monkeys* all have crazy viruses with the potential to wipe out mankind. One of the best epidemic movies is *The Stand*. It was made for TV, but doesn't skimp on the apocalypтика.

**MB:** Let me reverse my stand on my desire to see big special effects in these films. *The Road* is one of the scariest, most haunting

movies about trying to survive an apocalypse I've ever seen. But then again, *Independence Day* has the White House blowin' up real good! I think there's an interesting double bill here, with two widely different takes on the topic.

**RC:** I have to say that one of the best apocalyptic movies didn't have anything to do with aliens or killer planets but with a very simple idea — mass infertility. There's few special effects and the White House is probably still standing at the end. It's more about great storytelling and a thought provoking idea.

**MB:** *Children of Men*? Brilliant. But when I was a little boy I saw *On the Beach*, set in Australia after a nuclear holocaust. Not one special effect, but I cried myself to sleep for months.

### Top three

- **Richard's Picks:**
  1. *On the Beach* A dystopian drama starring Gregory Peck that set the date for the end of the world just after World War III in 1964.
  2. *Panic in Year Zero!* Begins with one of filmdom's great understatements. "We've had it, haven't we dad?" as a mushroom cloud rises in the background.
  3. *Rock & Rule* is an animation set on a devastated planet where a rock star tries to rule what's left of the world.
- **Mark's Picks**
  1. *Miracle Mile* Real-time panic as our hero frantically searches for his girlfriend in L.A. before the bombs drop.
  2. *The Day After* Made for TV, a hyper-realistic look at Lawrence, Kansas after it's hit by a nuke.
  3. *I Am Legend* Will Smith is great in the Charlton Heston role in *Omega Man*.

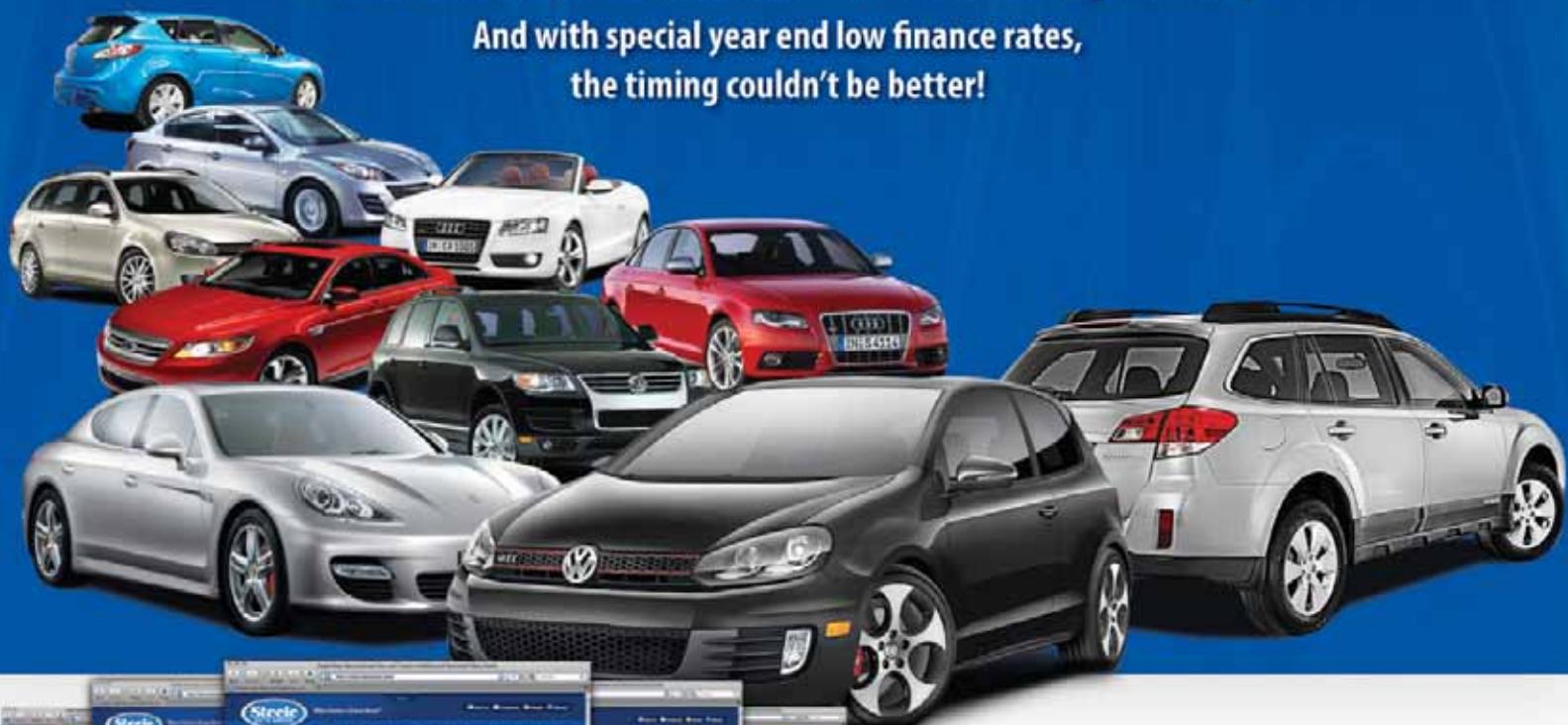
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- We asked our Metro Life Panel which celebrity they would want to spend their last 24 hours on earth with
- Some answers were predictable — Pamela Anderson — and others took us by surprise (your mom? Really?)

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



► Angelina Jolie



► Leonardo DiCaprio

# Your last Date night



► The Dalai Lama



► Brad Pitt



► Oprah Winfrey



► Ryan Reynolds

## Who else?

- Chuck Norris If anyone's going to make it through the apocalypse, it's Chuck.
- Dr. Oz He'd know just what to do and say to make "everything right."
- Ellen DeGeneres I wanna go out laughing and happy.
- Jann Arden I'd love to sit and drink wine with her and hear her talk.
- Keanu Reeves He's boring enough that I would nod off first.
- Leonard Cohen He seems like an interesting man with an interesting mind.

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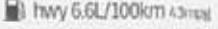
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# Is that your final answer?

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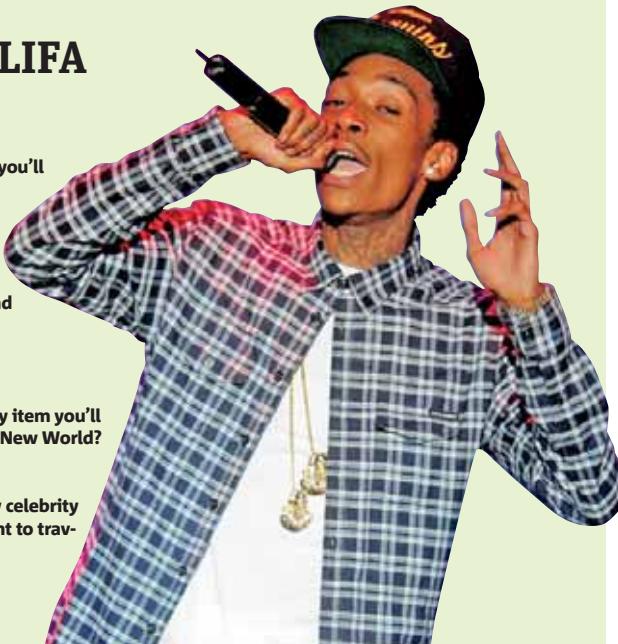
**What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?**  
Save The Children  
by Marvin Gaye

**What is the last movie you'll watch and with whom?**  
The Notebook with  
Amber.

**What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?**  
My laptop.

**Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?**  
Amber Rose.

• PAT HEALY



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**What is your last meal?**  
It would definitely be a meat dish. I love meat. It's so bad, but damn, it's pretty good. Maybe just cook a whole cow. Actually, probably a steak au poivre or steak frites.

**What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?**  
Maybe Let it Be. Maybe a Pink Floyd song? Or you could go out on something completely ironic like Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.

**What is the last movie you'll watch?**  
I would love to say some-



thing that was really influential, about the goodness of humanity, but it would probably be Jurassic Park.

**What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?**  
The Complete Works of

Shakespeare.

**Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?**  
Andy Serkis, for sure. I love that man. I genuinely love him. • RICHARD CROUSE



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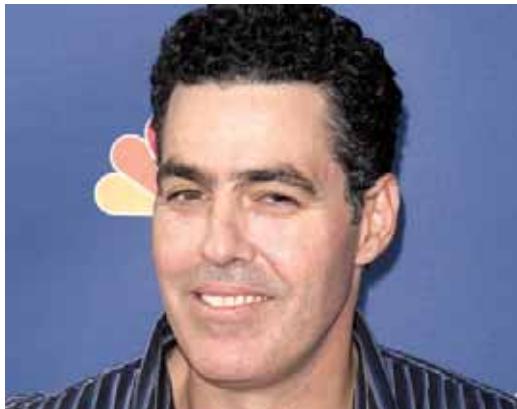
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► It may not be the end of the world ... yet, but we asked a few celebrities what they'd do if it was



**ADAM CAROLLA**  
COMEDIAN

**What is your last meal?**

I'd go to the busiest restaurant, whose kitchen was most backed up and then I would change my order three or four times. I'd stretch it out. I'd eat

lobsters raised on Snickers bars then dipped in a buttermilk substance mixed with tempura sauce and then deep-fried. With heroin sprinkled on it.

**What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?**

You can go with one of my favourites like John Hiatt or Elvis Costello and hear something you really

want to hear. Or, a better approach would be to take a horrible song like Maneater by Hall and Oates and want to die.

**What is the last movie you'll watch and with whom?**

I would pick a long movie. There's a theme here, I want to stretch it out. I'd watch Goodfellas with Joe Pesci and make sure he got drunk and have him re-enact his scenes. I'd have Ray Liotta there too and make them do their crazy laughs.

**What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?**

Wait a minute; you can't transport items. You're dead, there's no taking anything with you.

**Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?**

The world is ending. That's it. You're done.

• PAT HEALY

**MINDY KALING**  
WRITER, PRODUCER,  
ACTRESS

**What would your last meal be?**

My last meal would probably be Ethiopian food, my favourite kind of food ... it's super heavy and I love it.

**What would the last song you'd sing in the shower be?**

Countdown by Beyoncé.

**What is the last movie you'd watch and with whom?**

The last movie I would watch would be You've Got Mail and I'd watch it with my mom.

**What's one luxury item you'd bring with you to the new world?**

In the post apocalyptic world where it's like Cormac McCarthy's The Road and everyone is dirty and disgusting, I'd bring a Judith Lieber clutch, like in my rags.

**One celebrity you'd want to travel with to the new world?**

Aaron Sorkin. • PAT HEALY



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# The new music stars



▶ King Krule

► Escaping the apocalypse? Take some 2012 sounds with you

## 1 The Dø

Both Ways Open Jaws, the sophomore album by the French duo The Dø, instantly feels classic and contemporary. It is celebratory and it is agitated; it is majestic and it is raw; it is artsy and it is poppy. Basically, it sounds the way you'd expect Lady Gaga to sound if you had only ever seen photos of her.

## 2 King Krule

If you didn't know that Archy Marshall was a fresh-faced 17-year-old, and you heard his patient beats, sophisticated guitar chords, moody words and his low London voice, you might think he was in his 30s and possibly was the type of character who accompanied Pete Doherty through every stint in rehab. But luckily

for us, Marshall has many years ahead of him.

## 3 Azealia Banks

Imagine if Rihanna really was into sex as much as she sings about. And if Nicki Minaj was into Interpol! Then you might have an idea of the hot, hilarious awesomeness that is the 20-year-old Harlem native Azealia Banks. • PAT HEALY

# The most anticipated albums of next year

## Lana Del Rey

Born to Die Jan. 31

Lana Del Rey released a video this summer that was so hot that every blogger in the world watched it back-to-back enough that they were all fighting to be the first to declare her passé by the next day. But for those of us who are just interested in good music, rather than hearing it first, Del Rey's sultry take on gangsta will be a breath of fresh air.

sophomore slump.

## Mumford and Sons

title and release date undetermined

These lads are in the same predicament as Sleigh Bells, with a second al-

bum due, but on the acoustic side.

## Dr. Dre

Detox, release date undetermined

Sources indicate the good doctor could actually drop the follow-up to 2001's "2001" before it officially becomes a long-awaited release of Chinese Democracy proportions.

## No Doubt

title and release date undetermined

It's been more than a decade since No Doubt released Rock Steady. Luckily they haven't teased the world with little hints and glimpses of what they were toiling away on in the studio, the way Dr. Dre has. We have a feeling this will just have us feeling hella good all over again. • PAT HEALY



Lana Del Rey

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# 5 survival skills your mother didn't teach you

► It's the end of days, you're alone and you're going to need a few skills to survive ► Here's what you need to know to cope with an apocalypse


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## How to sew a button

Tools: needle, thread, scissors

Put the thread into the eye of the needle. (Tip: Lick the end of the thread to give it some strength.) Pull the thread through the needle until there is an equal length of thread on both sides. Tie the ends together in a big knot. Now position the button on the fabric. Push the needle up through the fabric, behind the button, and up through the button hole. Pull the thread all the way through. Push the needle through a different hole in the button and pull the thread through. Repeat several times until the button is secure. On the backside of the fabric, run the needle through your awkward stitching several times to tie off the thread.

## How to cut down a tree

Tools: chainsaw, rope, ladder

Use the ladder to tie a rope to the top of the tree, or as high as you can get it. Cut a notch (with the chainsaw, duh) that goes more than halfway through the tree, on the side of the tree you want it to fall on. Then cut downward on the other side, toward the notch you just created. When you get close to the notch, it should start to fall. If it doesn't, pull the rope. Carefully. If it does start to fall, get out of the way, as the butt of the tree can kick back and smack you.

## How to de-bone a fish

Tools: sharp knife, tweezers

Place clean fish on its side. Cut the fish just behind the gill plate until the blade hits the fish's backbone. Make sure your knife is flat and parallel to the cutting surface. Slice down the length of the backbone right to the tail. Repeat on the other side. Remove the backbone. Then slice between the rib bones into the meat of the fish and pull the bones out. Use tweezers to clasp onto the remaining bones and pull them out. Note: Do not later use these tweezers for your eyebrows.

## How to start a fire using ice

Tools: foil, clear water, knife

Shape a piece of foil into a bowl. Fill it with about 5 cm of water. Wait for it to freeze. Make a nest of tinder for later. Using a pocket knife, shape the ice into a lens shape. (Remember, lenses are thicker in the middle and narrower around the edges.) Polish your lens with your bare hands (the heat will help the lens become nice and smooth). Angle the lens toward the sun and focus the light on the tinder nest. Be patient.... Fire!

## How to be alone

Chances are, you're by yourself. How do you not go crazy until you find other people? Some suggestions: Write a story or some poetry. Learn something new, like guitar. There must be plenty of guitars and Guitar for Dummies books around. Read. There will be other books near the guitar book. Listen to music, assuming there's electricity. Sing, dance, paint, do puzzles. Keeping your mind occupied is key.



# 3 life

## Winter storms



Here's what to do during a power outage:

- Turn off appliances to avoid a power surge when power is restored.
- Do not touch electrical wires, appliances or devices.
- Check for gas leaks and turn the valves off if you find one.
- Prepare an inventory of what has been lost or damaged.

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PREVIEW  
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2012 Passat



# VW HOT IN 2012

Volkswagen has aspirations of big sales gains in North America and to do that means more product, better product and, especially in the case of the new **Passat**, product that's perceived as good value.

Following a one-year absence, this mid-size four-door returns for 2012 with a base sticker price of about \$23,500 on its window, which is about \$9,400 less than the 2010 version. The new Passat is nine centimetres longer overall and the distance between the front and rear wheels has been stretched by about the same amount. The new size is in line with models belonging to the rest of the mid-size segment.

The Passat's interior styling, inspired by Volkswagen's new-look Touareg sport ute, is clean, uncluttered and devoid of the trendy dashboard swoops and swirls. For the 2012 model year, VW has dropped the previously standard 200-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged powerplant for a less-expensive non-turbo 170-horsepower 2.5-litre five-cylinder. A 280-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 is optional, as is Volkswagen's hybrid-challenging 140-horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-diesel that will give the Passat a claimed rating of 6.8 l/100 km on the highway (4.4 in the city). Passat's starting-point Trendline model is equipped with automatic climate control, cruise control, outside temperature display and Bluetooth short-range wireless connectivity.

**Also back after a year off is the Beetle**, but this time with sharper styling, a roomier and up-to-date interior and more power. Oh, and the name has been shortened to just plain Beetle, if you please. Gone is the New Beetle's oval, almost cartoonish appearance, replaced by a longer hood and flatter roofline that ends in a rounded hatchway flanked by a set of prominent taillights. The Beetle is wider by more than three inches and has been lengthened by half a foot. Additionally, the distance between the front and rear wheels has been increased to



2012 Beetle



2012 Golf R

## Base prices (incl. destination)

<b>CC:</b>	Mid-sized sedan; \$34,700
<b>Eos:</b>	Compact convertible; \$40,400
<b>Golf:</b>	Compact hatchback; \$21,400; \$30,800 (GTI)
<b>Jetta:</b>	Compact sedan/wagon; \$17,200 (sedan)
<b>Passat:</b>	Mid-sized sedan; \$25,300
<b>Routan:</b>	Minivan; \$30,150
<b>Tiguan:</b>	Compact SUV; \$30,000
<b>Touareg:</b>	Mid-size SUV; \$50,500



2012 Tiguan

create some much-needed rear-seat legroom plus a more generous stowage area. Inside, the more contemporary-looking cabin features easy-to-read dials and massive air vents that flank a carbon-fibre look dashboard.

The base model arrives with a 170-horsepower 2.5-litre five-cylinder that pretty much carries over from the old New Beetle. Optional is the popular 140-horsepower 2.0-litre turbo-diesel (TDI). The top-rung and most performance-focused Beetle gets it done with a 200-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder. It's also the only model to include a standard rear spoiler. Entry-level Beetles showcase numerous power-operated accessories plus air conditioning, cloth-covered seats and an eight-speaker stereo.

**Besting the turbo Beetle's performance is the new two-door Golf R model with its 256-horsepower version of the GTI's familiar 2.0-litre turbo-**

charged four-cylinder engine, only available with a six-speed manual transmission and only available with all-wheel-drive to better help put the grunt to the road.

**Elsewhere, the Tiger-Iguana (Tiguan)** has a little plastic surgery and now looks a bit like the larger Touareg. The horizontal grille splits bi-xenon (high and low beam) headlights and U-shaped LED (light emitting diode) on top-end models, while the rear tail-lights get some more subtle tweaks.

**This guide has a rule book...** The information in this guide is accurate to the best of our ability and knowledge at the time it was written. We say this because manufacturers are completely entitled to make changes after this writing and often do. Therefore, you can expect something to have changed from the time of writing to the time you've read it. Most importantly, some manufacturers haven't finalized their lineups and all the options, etc., as of this writing, which means that we might include carryover pricing, features, etc., in some cases, and indicate it as such.

**Base price:** Prices reflect the entry-level model in a given lineup. That is to say the price provided is the starting point. In most cases, prices have been provided by the manufacturer and then rounded up or down to the nearest \$100 to reflect small changes that inevitably occur from time to time. It's also because the prices provided here are intended as a gauge of affordability and are not today's sale price, so do not quote these prices to your dealer. Prices do not include the tax you'll pay, although most include the delivery charges (and are indicated as such where possible) which run from about \$1,300-\$1,600 (some are as high as \$2,200). Where pricing is not yet available, we've taken our best guess and added "(est.)" to the number.



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# You, 12 months from now

- In one year's time, we'll have become more 'sharing and caring,' the world's top trend-spotters tell Metro
- We'll share songs, docs and files without owning them, and we'll care more about where our food comes from



**ANTHONY JOHNSTON**  
METRO WORLD NEWS

Computing on the cloud, holidaying on a farm and interacting with talking billboards are among the top things we'll be doing in 2012, the world's leading trends potters tell Metro.

"The new year will be a portrait of contrasts — great new techno-breakthroughs and a rush toward embracing anything local, including crafts and foods," says Marian Salzman, president of Euro RSCG Worldwide PR.

## Surfin' in the 'cloud'

Cloud computing will be the most talked-about trend over the next year.

"Twelve months from now, most people under 40 will be logging into a virtual file cabinet to pick up your work assignment or your shopping list," Salzman tells Metro.

"There are obvious privacy issues that come with that," says Ann Mack, director of trend-spotting at global advertising agency JWT.

"But overall, people are moving toward 'access over ownership.' Already you can access any song you like online without actually owning it."

### Other trends

► **Eco-cycology.** We're seeking a more sustainable lifestyle — and we want the same from the brands we buy. Already Nike and Dell have programs where they take back old items from customers and recycle the material to use in new products.



2012 trend:  
flapper dress

► **Depression-era chic.** Perhaps as a nod to our economic climate, designers, from Gucci to Roberto Cavalli, showed swingy flapper dresses, complete with drop waists, deco touches and Zelda Fitzgerald as a muse.

► **Trading in.** With wage freezes we all need some ways to get a bit of extra cash. 'Recommerce' is the new buying where tech-savvy consumers are reselling or trading in old buys. Across the world, companies are already offering trade-in programs.

SOURCES: MARIAN SALZMAN,  
TRENDWATCHING.COM



with more and more people concerned about how their food products are sourced — and they're investigating with their smartphones.

One smartphone app — GoodGuide — allows shop-

pers to scan a product with their phone camera and find out how ethically responsible the food company behind the product is.

"Into the new year, our smartphone will increasingly become our companion to what kind of cheese we'll buy; we can find out if it was made in that trustworthy farm," Salzman says.

The futurologist believes an overall citizen-led drive to target corporate responsibility is behind this. "On a macro level, it's due to the general malaise in society that's still around today. Wanting a sense of control in this chaos is a personal trigger," Salzman adds.

But we won't just be acting ethical in the supermarket aisles. Salzman

predicts a rise in eco-tourism and spending vacation time volunteering at farms over the next year.

"Don't be surprised if families take their urban/suburban gardens one step further by going on 'farmcations,'" she says.

"Think staying at sustainable farms where families can learn to grow their own foods in a nod to 2012 survivalist fervor and to the need to know what they're eating and to pay less for healthy food."

### Say hi to a billboard

Our lives will revolve even more than they already do around touchpad devices, whether it's ordering in a restaurant or shopping in a department store.

Barney's department store in New York already

boasts restaurant tables fitted with touchscreens; diners can digitally order their meal, then browse through the store's catalogue.

And we'll be "talking" to billboards, too: "Siri and other voice recognition devices are a big hit now, but as people will get used to this phenomenon, we could be interacting with a talking billboard," Mack told Metro.

Already in Japan, they have billboards that can detect with 90 per cent accuracy whether the passer-by is male or female, and then serve up an ad accordingly.

"Some people will say this is all straight out of [futuristic sci-fi movie] Minority Report, but in reality this is going to happen."

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# Get creative with canned food

► Whether you like buying in bulk or you're preparing for a disaster, you likely have a stash of canned goods gathering dust in your pantry ► Emily Richards explains how to turn those staples into easy, tasty meals

ALL PHOTOS BY EMILY RICHARDS

## Drink of the week

### Hot Chocolate Mix

Since this mix includes milk powder, all you have to do is add boiled water and enjoy!

- 1 cup (250 mL) instant skim milk powder
- ½ cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- ½ cup (125 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder

In jar, stir together milk powder, sugar and cocoa powder until well combined. Store for up to 2 months. When ready to make 1 mug of hot chocolate, bring about 1 cup (250 mL) of water to boil and whisk in 1/4 cup (60 mL) of the hot chocolate mix until smooth.

**Tip:** You can find instant skim milk powder at bulk and health food stores.

● EMILY RICHARDS



## DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS  
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



The flavour and spice level in this one-pot meal will knock your socks off!

If you're not a fan of heat and spice, simply use half the package of paste. To change up the flavour, look for other paste or sauce packages such as peanut sauce for a Thai-inspired dish.

### Preparation:

- 1 In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion for about 3 minutes or until softened. Stir in paste and rice until well coated. Add water; bring to the boil.
- 2 Cover and reduce heat to low and cook for about 10 minutes or until water is absorbed and rice is fluffy. Stir in vegetables, tuna and parsley and let stand, covered, for 5 minutes before serving.

### Ingredients:

- 1 can (540 mL/19 oz) cooked diced potatoes, drained well
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 mL) dried parsley leaves
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried thyme leaves
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) cayenne
- 1 can (398 mL/14 oz) creamed corn
- 1 can (370 mL) 2% evaporated milk
- 1 can (284 mL/10 oz) vegetable broth
- 1 ½ cups (300 mL) water



► This recipe makes six 1 cup (250 mL) servings.



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# The 2012 tech trends

► If the Terminator series proves right (and who doubts it?) technology may not be our friend for much longer, so embrace it now ► Here's our look into the near future (no hoverboards, yet) ► As ever, fighting games rule

## Grand Theft Auto V

This is going to be huge. Like, Avatar-huge: The last Grand Theft Auto was the biggest video game launch of its time, and overall, the series has moved more than 124 million copies. V is set in a warped version of Los Angeles, called Los Santos, and stars a family man pulled back into a world of crime. Horrific crime. Previous installments have been



blamed for inciting real-life violence. Expect at least a mob ... at the video game store. No release date yet.

## Playstation Vita



Could this be the iPhone killer? With 3G mobile support and social networking capability, the Vita (means "life" in Latin) is more than a portable video game player. But it is that too:

titles such as Uncharted: Golden Abyss and Call of Duty will be available near launch. Some can be played via touch screen. Released in Europe and North America in February.

## Windows 8: Touch

The touch screen revolution comes to the PC, as Microsoft's rumored new OS will support finger-clicking icons.

The company could use the buzz. In the cool wars, they've lost to Apple for decades.



## Wii U

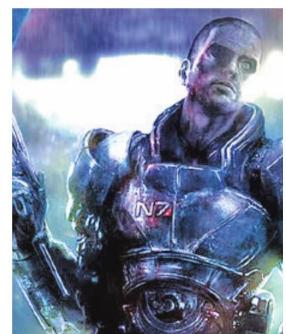
The original Wii — with joysticks that looked like nunchucks and family-friendly titles — brought Nintendo back to the forefront of gaming, although the Xbox Kinect (no joystick required) later stole the spotlight. The Wii U does require a controller — but it's got a touch screen, which means games can be played on the television or in your hand. Revolu-



tional, or too complicated? Find out while playing LEGO City Stories or a new Pimkin. No release date yet.

## Mass Effect 3

An intergalactic combat game, Mass Effect has never had the cachet of Call of Duty — in other words, dads haven't heard of it. But it's a big deal to gamers. The final chapter continues Commander Shepard's battle against the evil Reapers. Released March 9. ■ SAM CASTONE



## The Amazing Spider-Man

Tied into this summer's movie reboot, this Activision title allows you to venture all over the big city, slinging webs at anyone — a significant change from previous Spidey games where you were stuck on one track. Also a bonus: A writer from Battlestar Galactica helped pen the plot.



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## Sports in brief



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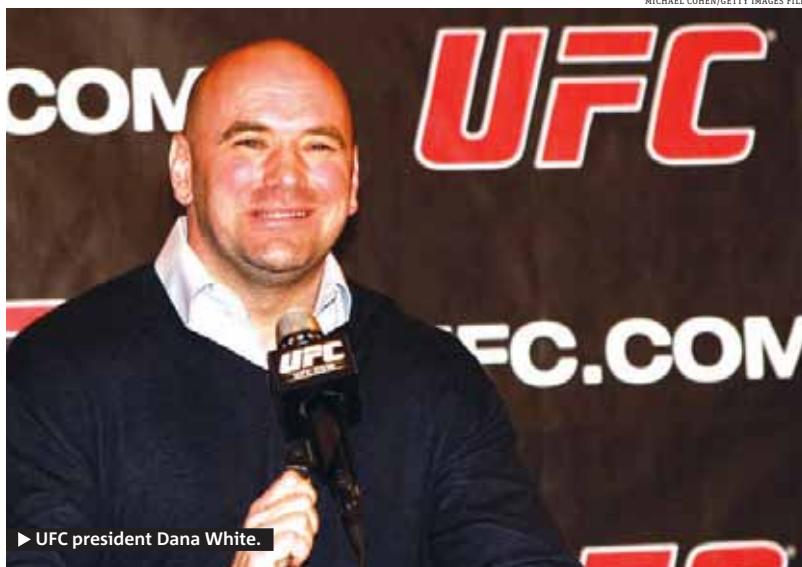
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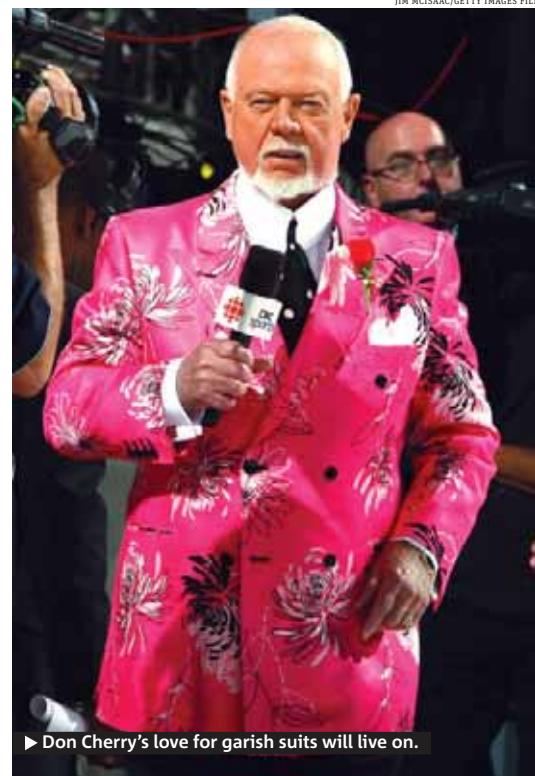
# A brave new sporting world

► If we're not all reduced to rubble, we could see sports get a whole lot wackier beyond 2012



► UFC president Dana White.

MICHAEL COHEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE



► Don Cherry's love for garish suits will live on.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Ask anyone from a previous generation and they'll surely enlighten you as to how "sports ain't what they used to be." Until the end of 2012 those were just the crowning of the bewildered and beleaguered. Fans of the future, know they will have a valid claim...

**2037:** With ratings on the decline due to the influx of violent and gambling reality shows ("Monkey Knife Fight"; "Trillion Dollar Deficit Coin-Flip"; "Casino vs. Robosaurus"; "Who Has The Toughest Automatic Dishwasher...Literally?"), the now-completely hairless UFC president Dana White melds Mixed Martial Arts with Texas Hold 'Em: As Real A Semi-Bluff As It Gets!

**2049:** After locking out its

players for a combined 15th time this century, many NBA and NFL players head back to college to finish their degrees (and to take advantage of the fact the NCAA is now paying its "amateur" athletes upwards of \$2 million a semester, along with all-you-can-sit tattoos). The pros arrive to find the March Madness tournament has ballooned to 16,388 schools (14 rounds plus two play-in games) and begins the previous June. Football still rebuffs a playoff system, making all but one of the 78 bowls utterly inane. (Though the Visa Halftime Show sponsored by Doritos at the Meineke Car Care Bowl presented by Fannie Mae would have been great if it wasn't for



► Thumb wars will be the sports battlefields of the future.

all the commercials.)

**2062:** Pogs!

**2087:** Proving Darwin's theory correct, decades of relentless texting has led to the thumb being the strongest appendage on most humans. What start-

ed with Pro Thumb Wrestling ("It's totally fake!") evolves into the Thumb Olympics. Events include synchronized scrolling and the modern phalangeathalon. Most contestants aren't very polished.

**2112:** In an ongoing effort to reduce concussions, the NHL, which at last count had expanded to 78 teams, finally arrives at a "solution" to head shots by boiling the game down to a 99-shot per team shootout (with the provisos that no

player can skate beyond the hashmarks for fear of running into the goalie and any shot above the waist results in a lifetime ban.) Coaches give themselves concussions from shaking their heads. Don Cherry's ghost, drawn back from the abyss every Saturday night with the promise of a new garish suit, calls Gary Bettman IV a joke. Of course, fighting is still allowed ... how else to keep up with Ultimate Poker?

● EDWARD FRASER/FOR METRO

## Five sports signs of the apocalypse

**PHILIP CROUCHER**  
@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO CANADA IN HALIFAX

**1** Professional athletes realize just how overpaid they are and decide en masse to take a 50 per cent pay cut, which in turn sees ticket prices cut in half allowing middle class families to again cheer

on their home teams. As well, fans are in jerseys, instead of three-piece suits, at arenas throughout leagues.

**2** Yonge Street is lined for miles with cheering fans as Toronto's beloved Maple Leafs do the unthinkable and win the Stanley Cup. Sure, the team needed the winning goal in Game 7 of the final to take a

favourable ricochet off the glass on an overtime dump in, but Leaf fans don't care. They are happy to be the loveable losers no more.

**3** Soccer overtakes hockey to become the most watched sport in Canada. CBC cashes in by dumping Hockey Night in Canada in favour of Soccer Night in Canada,

with Coaches Corner featuring Ron McLean and Don Cherry in T-shirts and shorts no less.

**4** The CFL, in an attempt to boost TV ratings and ticket sales, decides to have a one-round MMA fight between opposing players to decide who gets first possession. This fills seats well before kick-off.

**5** The golf world is stunned when Tiger Woods, who hasn't won a sanctioned PGA event in years, quits the tour and joins the LPGA. The LPGA is thrilled to have him, since someone might actually watch. As for Woods, not only does he now have to wear a skirt when he plays, he thinks he can overtake Jack Nicklaus' major wins.

# Where do we go from here?

► Metro guest columnist Greg Downs looks at how pro sports could evolve and the future of athletic culture

## Equality in dressing rooms:

If the world of sports is the last mainstream closet, then the next 50 years will open doors.

There is a short history of openly gay athletes, mainly because of the stigma athletes who come out face.

However the mentality is set to change in locker rooms and front offices around North America.

The NFL, largely considered to be the toughest arena to be a gay athlete, wrote legislation into the new collective bargaining agreement, barring any discrimination based on sexual orientation.

It's a sign of things to come when high-profile, truculent personalities

such as Brian Burke voice their concerns and walk in the Gay Pride Parade.

**New national sport:** Canada's national sport will be forced to take a back seat as concussions, and changing population push soccer to the forefront of the sporting landscape.

According to Stats Canada by 2031 as much as 28 per cent of the population will be of foreign birth, bringing the world's most popular game with them.

Toronto FC and the Vancouver Whitecaps are already among the MLS leaders in attendance and Canada's third franchise, the Montreal Impact, will join this summer.

As concussion information develops, and head in-



► Ashtone Morgan, centre, waves to Toronto FC fans at BMO field last October.

juries become more prevalent in contact sports, soccer will become the safer alternative.

**International Hockey League:** With many NBA, and NHL markets struggling to keep up with the growing player salaries, the lure of foreign markets will spawn international leagues.

The money has already been proven to exist.

In 2010 SKA Saint Petersburg offered Ilya Kovalchuk the same \$100 million deal as the one he signed with the New Jersey Devils, a sum many NHL clubs couldn't afford.

NBA player Deron Williams signed a big deal overseas (one-year, \$5 mil-

lion) during the recent lockout. His number was even retired after just 15 games.

**Pay to play:** In the next half century college and university athletes will lose their amateur status.

While organizations like the NCAA have fought and fined to keep players from making money, the pressure on big schools to recruit will force the league to adapt.

There's just too much money on the line. Both BCS championship teams, LSU and Alabama will receive \$18 million for playing the biggest college game of the season.

Many schools and boosters have already shown the willingness to throw large sums of cash at high school

ers and it will be impossible for the NCAA to stop it.

**Front court — Front office:** Athletes will elevate from highly paid stars, to player/owners as teams try to lure them to their city.

Owners routinely hand over power of their teams to stars, and based on current contracts, ownership is next. Albert Pujols was handed a \$252 million contract this month by the L.A. Angels. It's a deal worth more than the amount owner Art Moreno paid for the team (\$181 million in 2003). Alexander Ovechkin's 13 year \$124 million deal is only \$10 million shy of Forbes' estimated worth of the Phoenix Coyotes franchise.

● GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

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#### General Services

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#### Community Events

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Community Events

#### ANNUAL BEDFORD LIONS CLUB NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
at LeBrun Center in Bedford  
Fish chowder will be served as well as other snacks.



#### SACKVILLE N.S. LIONS CLUB NEW YEARS DANCE

101 Old Beaverbank Road  
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Cash Bar & Free Punch 8 pm  
Finger Food During the Evening

#### MUSIC BY:

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Lion Harold Campbell - 864-2672  
Lion John Campbell - 864-0230  
Lion Jim Sherry - 865-3309

**Mayan Calendar Puzzle**

Many are dreading 2012, as it supposedly means dark days are ahead as foretold by the Mayan calendar. Wrong! The truth is, it's just the end of a cycle of the Mayan calendar. To the Mayans, that was a time to celebrate. So, 2012 is more like a brand new day rather than an end of days. 2012 is going to be just fine.

• LARRY HUMBER

**Across**

- 1 The Mayan Calendar is known as the Maya \_\_\_\_ Round (a word meaning holy)
- 4 The Maya had \_\_\_\_ day names, nearly three times as many as we have
- 9 McHattie of Immortals and the disaster film 2012
- 10 What the Maya
- 13 A New Testament book
- 15 Scarlett O'Hara's home
- 18 Shake violently
- 21 Basketball's "Shaq"
- 23 Information fed into a computer
- 24 Adopts: 2 wds.
- 25 John \_\_\_\_ played writer Jackson Curtis in 2012
- 26 \_\_\_\_ & Demons was a Dan Brown book and later a film starring Tom Hanks
- 29 In the film 2012, Lilly is

called day 19; it means rain storm (it's also a kind of canoe if you change the middle letter)

11 If things go as some say in 2012, we'll be needing more than salts to cure our ills

12 Predominantly Muslim nation in West Africa

13 A New Testament book

15 Scarlett O'Hara's home

18 Shake violently

21 Basketball's "Shaq"

23 Information fed into a computer

24 Adopts: 2 wds.

25 John \_\_\_\_ played writer Jackson Curtis in 2012

26 \_\_\_\_ & Demons was a Dan Brown book and later a film starring Tom Hanks

29 In the film 2012, Lilly is

the \_\_\_\_ of Noah (they're Curtis's kids)

2 Maia Chiburdanidze was women's world \_\_\_\_ champ

3 Digs up or brings to light

5 Rouse from sleep

6 One who's into astrology, say: 2 wds.

7 Country folk

8 Terminates

14 The Mayan calendar is used to this day in this part of Mexico (it's an anagram of APHASIC)

15 The Mayan calendar is known to scholars as the \_\_\_\_ (the answer is close in spelling to The Lord of the Rings author)

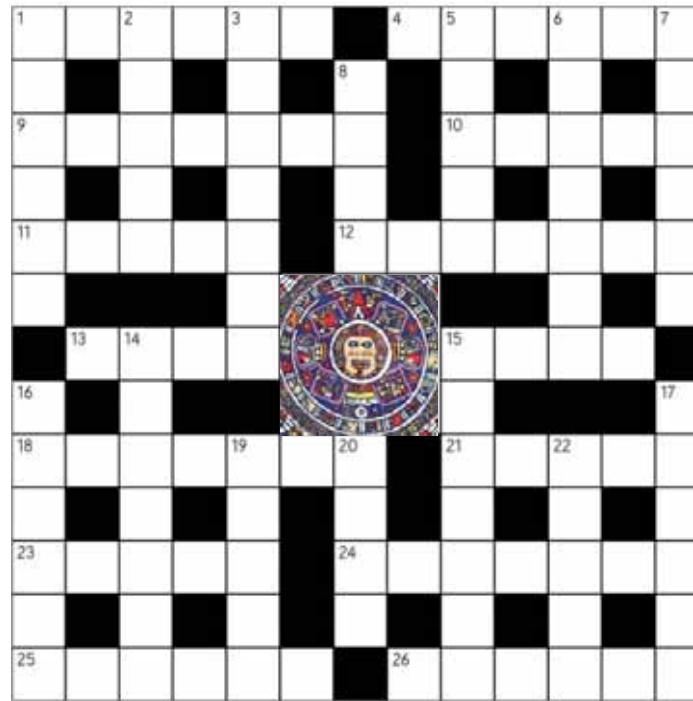
16 Crazy person

17 Symbolic figures as found in the Mayan calendar

19 The \_\_\_\_ calendar was an adaptation of the Mayan

20 Erodes, \_\_\_\_ away

22 Come as a result

**Solution**

20. EATS and 22. ENSUE  
17. GLYPHS, 19. AZTEC,  
TZOLKIN, 16. MAINAC,  
ENDS, 14. CHIAPAS, 15.  
NEW AGE, 7. YOKEL, 8.  
HUMES, 5. WAKEN, 6.  
1. SISTER, 2. CHESS, 3. EX-  
DOWN  
INPU, 24. TAKES UP, 25.  
TATE, 23. ONEAL, 23.  
ACTS, 15. TARA, 18. AGI-  
EPOSM, 12. SENEGAL, 11.  
STEPHEN, 10. KAWAK, 11.  
1. SACRED, 4. TWENTY, 9.  
2. SACRED, 4. TWENTY, 9.  
3. EX-  
ACROSS  
CUSAOK and 26. ANGELS  
TATE, 23. ONEAL, 23.  
ACTS, 15. TARA, 18. AGI-  
EPOSM, 12. SENEGAL, 11.  
STEPHEN, 10. KAWAK, 11.  
1. SACRED, 4. TWENTY, 9.  
2. SACRED, 4. TWENTY, 9.  
3. EX-



**NOTE:** The solutions for the Dec. 24th crossword and Sudoku will appear in the Jan. 3 issue of Metro. If you can't wait until then, go to metronews.ca for the answers.

**Numerology**

Numerology offers a personality and lifestyle profile that can help unlock the mysteries of the past, present and future. Numbers help predict outcomes — so you can enhance relationships, career and overall living!

**Number One**

**Celebrate:** You will inspire people willing to hear your point of view. Not only will they be impressed with your vision, but they will tell others about you. **Watch out for:** Not just one, but many people will confront you with matters of the heart. If you are not interested, then be honest.

**Number Two**

**Celebrate:** Aggressive folks

who have rattled your chain in the past will ask you for forgiveness. Your career will pick up tenfold, so be ready to take on new responsibilities and exciting experiences.

**Watch out for:** Try not to push things. If it does not fit, do not force it. Relax and let things go.

**Number Three**

**Celebrate:** You have done things for people that others would not think of doing. This year coworkers, friends and family will show their gratitude for your kindness.

**Watch out for:** Your loyalty will be questioned two times in 2012; however, as long as you remain calm and cool, your maturity will shine through.

**Number Four**

**Celebrate:** Folks will come to you throughout the year. They will use you as a distraction from their woes. Do not shun them. Make money from it, or least earn good karma.

**Watch out for:** All will be merry for the first part of the year, but in mid-2012 you need to be watchful of people who say they love you, but hurt you most.

**Number Five**

**Celebrate:** Your creative side will bubble over in 2012. Business, career, love and spiritual ideas you have been putting off will now ignite and you will soar to new heights.

**Watch out for:** People with good intentions will try to persuade you not to take a chance. Hear their advice, but ultimately listen to your heart and go with your intuition.

**How it works**

- It starts with your birth date — month, day, year.
- Break down your numbers to a single digit.
- For example, say you were born on Dec. 20, 1971. December is the 12th month, so break the month down:  $1+2 = 3$

**Number Six**

**Celebrate:** In 2012 smiling and laughing will have more of an affect on your life than you could ever imagine. Folks may test you many times and in many ways, but you will pass them all.

**Watch out for:** Taking things personally will only cause stress. When others try to dish discomfort, deflect it by saying to yourself: "I am peaceful, and peace is with me."

**Number Eight**

**Celebrate:** Somebody between the ages of 21 and 35 will praise your name, and if they do this at work, your income will increase sooner rather than later.

**Watch out for:** Do not answer any questions that will turn into deeper questions. Getting into the nitty gritty of things is not necessary.

**Number Nine**

**Celebrate:** If somebody owes you money, you can look forward to getting some of it back, and just when you need it most.

**Watch out for:** Focus on your health, especially if you do not have the best of health right now.

A SYNDICATED ASTROLOGIST, CERISE FAIRFAX IS PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES. SHE IS ALSO A LIFE COACH COUNSELOR. CHECK HER OUT AT CERISE@FAIRFAX.COM

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The logo for KIA Winterfest, featuring the word "WINTERFEST" in white, bold, serif capital letters on a red ribbon banner. The "I" in "WINTER" contains the KIA logo, which is a stylized three-pointed star.

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